

# COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting held at 4:00pm, Thursday 27 September 2018 at the Koala Conservation Centre.

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>		
1.1	<p>The Chair declared the meeting open.</p> <p>Attendance / Apologies are listed below.</p> <p><b>Present:</b> Michaela Salvato (CHAIR and Board), Jane Foley (Board), Pamela Rothfield, Stephen Davie, Randall Joseph, Matt Synan, Gareth Kennedy, Gea Lovell, Anne Davie, Penny Manning, Jane Daly, Linda Cuttriss, Phil Wright, Christine Grayden, Kim Storey, Jason Cameron, Gil Smith, Cheryl Overton, Patsy Hunt, Jan Fleming, Derek Hibbert, Ian McFee, Joel Geoghegan.</p> <p><b>In Attendance:</b> Liz Stinson (Board Chair), Kevin Love (Board), Andrew Paxton (Board), Shelley Lavender (Board), Catherine Basterfield (CEO), Jessica McKelson (Manager-Conservation), Ben Driscoll (Manager-Operations), Hayley Smith (Executive Assistant - <b>Minutes</b>).</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Jill Sunderland, Phil Dressing, Mark Donaldson, Kellie Nichols, Mike Cleeland, Pauleen Boulton, Deirdre Griepsma, Deborah Holland, Tracey Jeffrey, Damien O'Connor, Jeff Nottle, Gavan O'Connor.</p>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
2.1	The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of this land and paid respect to their elders past and present.		
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
3.1	<p>The minutes of the Community and Environment Advisory Committee meeting held 28 June 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record.</p> <p>Moved: Anne Davie    Seconded: Gareth Kenndy.</p>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
4.1	<p>MONTH RAISED: JUNE 2018</p> <p>The CEO shared the Vision and Mission from the Phillip Island Nature Parks Strategic Plan 2018-23. Members noted that the plan was still awaiting Ministerial approval and that the full plan would be distributed to members when possible (ACTION – see right).</p>	CEO to provide detailed Strategic Plan to the committee following Ministerial approval of the plan.	Complete. Strategic Plan distributed to members in September 2018.
4.2	<p>MONTH RAISED: JUNE 2018</p> <p>The results of the study undertaken on wallabies were not yet published and Management will follow up to check status of this (most results are publically available through universities). (ACTION – see right).</p>	Findings of the study on wallabies to be made available through the Conservation News report.	In progress.
4.3	<p>MONTH RAISED: JUNE 2018</p> <p>There was a recommendation that the Nature Parks consider purchase of the land for sale at Kitty Miller Bay, being that it was not suitable for agriculture and it was significant wetland habitat for wildlife. Management responded that it would approach Trust for Nature about the opportunity. There was support from other committee members regarding the concept (ACTION – see right).</p>	CEO to investigate opportunity regarding purchase of land at Kitty Miller with Trust for Nature.	Closed. The CEO reported that the land had sold.

4.4	<p>MONTH RAISED: JUNE 2018</p> <p>- Council discussed its work on domestic and feral cat management including the curfew for domestic cats (which had been place for 12 months). It was noted that further information in relation to local laws/compliance would be sourced and provided to the Committee for information (ACTION – see right).</p>	Council to provide further information regarding feral and domestic cat management by Council including information from local laws.	Complete. Information emailed to committee members 11/10/18.
4.5	<p>NEW COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Chair welcomed new committee members noting new representation by many local groups and individuals representing the community. A list of committee members and group representation can be found on the Nature Parks website here: <a href="https://www.penguins.org.au/about/local-community/community-committees/community-and-environment-advisory-committee/">https://www.penguins.org.au/about/local-community/community-committees/community-and-environment-advisory-committee/</a> 6 of the 9 Nature Parks Board Members were also in attendance to meet and chat with members.</p>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Phillip Island Nature Parks Update</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
5.1	<p><u>Board Update</u></p> <p>The Chair shared key points following the Nature Parks Board Meeting which was held earlier in the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board nominated a successful tenderer for design of the new Penguin Parade boardwalks.</li> <li>• The Board noted an acquittal of the Reconciliation Action Plan 2015-18.</li> <li>• The Board undertook an Aboriginal Cultural Training session with consultant Ruben Berg and found it very valuable.</li> <li>• The Penguin Parade Redevelopment was running ahead of schedule with concrete slabs now in place. Contractors were ensuring that as much waste as possible was being diverted to recycling streams and existing materials already onsite were being utilised. Wildlife safety was also of high focus.</li> <li>• The Nature Parks continues to pursue energy innovation initiatives to reduce its footprint across all sites, particularly targeting plastic waste.</li> </ul>		
5.2	<p><u>General Update</u></p> <p>The CEO updated the committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitation had plateaued and was continuing as steady. Growth in the China market had slowed and was being monitored.</li> <li>• Roll-out of the Interpretation Plan was in progress across all sites.</li> <li>• A walk-through the Penguin Parade Redevelopment site for committee members would hopefully be possible around the time of the next meeting.</li> <li>• Lease arrangements for the Nature Parks Cowes Office had been finalised. The site (housing up to 60 staff) would be located at 154 Thompson Avenue with a second new staff office space to be located at the Koala Conservation Centre site.</li> <li>• Development of the next Reconciliation Action Plan was in progress working with the local community. Anticipated early 2019.</li> </ul> <p>The CEO confirmed that 40 car parks would be available at the Cowes Office site behind the building. Cycling to work would also be encouraged.</p>	Site walk-through opportunity to be made available for committee members (anticipated December 2018 Meeting).	
5.3	<p><u>Conservation Update</u></p> <p>The Manager-Conservation provided a verbal summary of highlights from the September 2018 Conservation News which had been circulated to committee members and provided in hard copy at the meeting.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding the ongoing issue of dogs on beaches in areas where there are hooded plovers. The Manager-Conservation discussed challenges including resourcing, varying nest locations each year and that signs were not always an effective deterrent.</p> <p>Note: Committee members are welcome to share the Conservation News document to their groups/networks (public document).</p>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Conservation Plan Workshop</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
6.1	The Manager-Conservation presented to the group regarding the Draft Phillip Island Nature Parks 30-Year Conservation Plan and Conservation Roadmap (5-year plan) and facilitated a workshop to gain feedback on the draft documents. The presentation		

	<p>is enclosed as <b>Attachment 1</b>. Detailed written feedback was collected by the Conservation Team for collation.</p> <p>Increased community engagement by the Nature Parks including with farmers and neighbouring landowners and further opportunities to collaborate were encouraged. Overabundant wildlife populations were a concern (including impacts on other species) and there was a view that more action was needed in this space. Relationships and the importance of working collaboratively with other land managers was raised to best protect environmental and community values.</p> <p>Working towards elimination of plastics was a highlighted priority including supporting local plastic-free initiatives and communicating these with visitors. Feral cat control, living with wildlife and management of residential development boundaries and tourism were also supported areas for priority focus.</p> <p>Increased definition for each action and measurable outcomes was suggested. A consultation workshop with younger people in the community was also suggested (schools) as was development of a conservation funding model.</p> <p>Hard copies of the plans were available for committee members with final feedback due by 5 October.</p>		
7	Matters Arising and Advice from Committee Members	ACTIONS	STATUS
7.1	<p><u>Newhaven College</u> The school is developing its wetlands areas, has established two environmental groups for protection of 82 acres of land and looks to strengthen its partnership with the Nature Parks.</p> <p><u>Landcare</u> Landcare is part of the Climate Change Land Capability and Capacity Project which will undertake case studies and provide guidance on landholders' capacity and capability to innovate and diversify in response to a changing climate. Other organisations involved include RMIT and Federation universities, Bass Coast Shire Council and the South Gippsland Landcare Network. One property on Phillip Island is involved.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS)</u> The PICS book Women in Conservation was recently nominated for the Victorian Community History Awards. PICS is closely following developments regarding Amendment C151. There is community concern around height limits for development on the Isle of Wight and Warley Hospital sites in Cowes.</p> <p><u>Newhaven Coast Action</u> Rabbits are an ongoing issue. There have been requests for formalisation of the walking track from Newhaven to Churchill Island (currently the track stops/cuts off).</p> <p><u>BetterBeef Network</u> Abundant wallabies and geese are currently a big issue. The tree die-off is also a concern and any assistance would be appreciated. Management responded that Nature Parks would like to engage more on this issue and possibly undertake research.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study Community Reference Group</u> Demand management for Phillip Island is a priority issue, including timing. There is a need for a walking track from Cowes to the Penguin Parade (will also assist less cars on the road). Pathways on Phillip Island need connecting. Suggest an accord between Nature Parks, Council and Destination Phillip Island. Management advised that the connection between Five-Ways to Oswin Roberts Reserve was near completion.</p> <p><u>Bass Coast Shire Council (Sustainable Environment Team)</u> The team is preparing for the upcoming Hooded Plover season. A couple of nests have already appeared.</p> <p><u>Friends of Churchill Island Society (FOCIS)</u> There will be a Working Bee on 13 October to spring clean the house and cottages. The Curator is currently on-site one day a week and it is hoped that this can be increased. History on Churchill Island can be found on the FOCIS website.</p> <p><u>BirdLife Bass Coast (BLBC)</u></p>		

<p>On 10/11/18 BLCB will be conducting an Island-wide 'Twitchathon' as contribution to the Phillip Island 150th celebrations. Teams will visit as many Island locations as possible and build up a list of species sighted on the day. A BLBC member has raised concern about global warming impacts on waders and to ensure this is addressed in the Conservation Plan.</p> <p><u>Friends of the Koalas (FOK)</u> FOK is acting on threats to habitat including in the Mirboo North area, and making submissions to VicForests. There is concern for the Greater Glider which is at risk due to habitat loss. Management noted FOK feedback regarding the new naming of the Koala Conservation Centre 'Koala Reserve' (that the word Conservation is preferred) and its regret that the Nature Parks did not submit to the Senate enquiry into the extinction crisis.</p> <p><u>Friends of Scenic Estate Reserve</u> There is concern regarding Cape Barren Geese pecking around Fishers Wetland in areas where weed spraying had been undertaken. Management advised that it would look into it (ACTION).</p> <p>A member reported two recent incidents of dogs off-leash on beaches (one dog appears dangerous) and an attack on their own dog which occurred last year. Management recommended that this be reported to Council and to the Police. There was also a report of wandering domesticated cats chasing birds at Surf Beach which can also be reported to Council.</p> <p><u>Bass Coast Shire Council</u> Development of Councils' Reconciliation Acton Plan is well underway. Council is involved with the Energy Innovation Co-Op group toward Totally Renewable Phillip Island. Council is advocating for reinstatement of the path reserve along east Cowes foreshore and linking it with Cowes and Silverleaves. Removal of coastal vegetation is an ongoing issue and Council is reviewing harsher penalties. The Rhyll Community Association supports a possible project to remove of European wasps from Phillip Island.</p> <p><u>Destination Phillip Island (DPI)</u> The 2018 DPI Conference was a success. DPI is supporting the Totally Renewable Phillip Island project including arranging agreements with local businesses. DPI is partnered with Plastic Free Phillip Island and advocating key changes amongst local businesses. The upcoming review of the visitation guide will see increased content on plastic use and dog walking.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Progress Association PIPA</u> PIPA (Phillip Island Stand Alone) is advocating for a Phillip Island Council and supports the work of the Nature Parks to conserve the Island, acknowledging that many PIPA members are from older families that gifted land to the community. There is concern amongst PIPA about possible future plans for more accommodation on Phillip Island.</p> <p><u>Phillip Island Historical Society:</u> The Phillip Island's 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations will include a re-enactment of the first Ballot of Land (10/11/18, 2pm Cowes Cultural Centre). The contribution by the Rhyll Coast Action Group in protecting the foreshore areas from erosion was acknowledged.</p> <p><u>Community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students at Deakin have undertaken a project to recycle waste plastic into useful objects using 3D printers and off-grid systems and this could be a good champion project for the community. Sheltered Glamping is utilising Effective Microbes as bio-active solution (for its dry composting toilet systems) which is working well. There was support for the Nature Parks to increase engagement about sustainability for and being a fully sustainable operation.</li> <li>• It was raised that the community, including neighbours of the Nature Parks, need new and more varied opportunities for engagement.</li> <li>• Bimbadeen farm is moving to recycled water use.</li> <li>• It was raised that there was great concern in the farming community about the impacts of cape barren geese, wallabies and possums and farmers were experiencing difficulty growing crops meaning that they may sell, opening opportunity for town boundaries to be extended. It was suggested that the 5-Year Conservation Roadmap include more on this issue and that the Nature Parks work with farmers urgently. Management advised that Nature Parks was conducting research into the issue and collaboration with farmers would assist</li> </ul>	<p>Management to report back on the possible impacts of weed spraying on wildlife.</p>	
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	<p>this research and in turn assist recommendations to be provided to DELWP for future management. It was confirmed that there was no wallaby-proof fencing installed at Swan Lake and that removal of eggs from nests requires a permit.</p> <p>Management advised that the path at Smiths Beach had been delayed (due to a supplies delay) and it should be finished over the following week and the equipment removed.</p> <p>Members were asked to email any topics they would like raised prior to the following meeting so that the Nature Parks can bring a response to the meeting to share.</p>		
<b>8</b>	<b>Other Business</b>		
8.1	There was feedback that meetings were not regular enough.		
<b>9</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>		
9.1	Committee Members noted the date of the next meeting (Thursday 20 December 2018).		
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Close</b>		
10.1	<p>The Chair thanked committee members for their participation and contribution and Management and staff for their support.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 6:21pm.</p>		